

Dear Senator Cassano and Representative Gentile:

Imagine living in a quiet residential neighborhood, having a young daughter who enjoys playing outside. Imagine that you have spent a small fortune over the 20 years that you have lived in your home upgrading it to be your largest investment. Imagine the prospects of ever being able to sell your home destroyed because a group home with troubled teen aged boys moved in right next door.

Now image this being the house next door to you!

This past summer, this was the exact situation we faced when the Klingberg Family Center attempted to buy 2 homes in our neighborhood in Bristol. There were lots of questions, many rumors and almost no answers. With difficult research, it was revealed that one of the homes was to house 8-10 trouble teen aged boys. Similar homes in Southington had the police summoned for issues over 85 times within a one year period. Wouldn't you want to know about such a home BEFORE they purchased and moved in?

While I understand the need for such an environment for trouble youth like this and I would not support legislation to outlaw the ability of a group home to consider such a move, I think the neighborhood should be informed and details be given to homeowners in the vicinity of such a proposed move.

Bill 159 sponsored by Senator Jason Welch, Representative Whit Betts and Representative Frank Nicastro will be coming before your Planning and Development Committee next week. I support such legislation believing that the neighborhood surrounding a proposed move by any group home be given the details of such a move and a forum to discuss the move prior to the group home being able to purchase the property. The neighbors should have the right to have the facts, not just the rumors. The ability for a group to move into a residential neighborhood should be accomplished openly, and not by stealth.

I am sure you would want that knowledge for such a proposed move in your neighborhood as well!

I hope you both will support such legislation and keep the communication process open for all concerned.

Thank you

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